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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/760,568	01/16/2001	Mitchell Kriegman	F.11154	2890

7590

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EXAMINER

TRAN, TRANG U

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2614

DATE MAILED: 04/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/760,568

Applicant(s)

KRIEGMAN, MITCHELL

Examiner

Trang U. Tran

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spector (US Patent No. 5,923,400) in view of Bunin (US Patent No. 3,070,920).

In considering claim 1, Spector discloses all the claimed subject matter, note 1) the claimed a key-colored background screen is met by the blue-screen traveling matte cinematography system 11 (Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 15-52), 2) the claimed means for producing, by cinematographic techniques, against the background of the key-colored screen, a real/action image, or a film sequence of real/action images, of a puppet that is manipulated by a plurality of puppeteers, said puppeteers being clothed in a material which is also key-colored to said background screen is met by the blue-screen traveling matte cinematography system 11 and the living actor who is enveloped from head-to-toe in a fabric body suit 10 (Figs. 1 and 2, col. 3, line 3 to col. 4, line 67), 3) the claimed means for real time compositing said real/action image and a virtual image of said key-colored set prop either alone or in combination with a virtual of a background is met by the composite image (col. 3, lines 15-38), and 4) the claimed means for displayed of said composited image is met by col. 3, lines 15-38.

However, Spector explicitly does not disclose the claimed a production set prop wherein at least a portion of said set prop is key-colored to said background screen, wherein said set prop is positioned between a puppet and its puppeteers.

Bunin teaches that in Fig. 1, separate control rods 11 are attached to the head, stomach and arms of primary form 10. Animation of the human figure show is achieved by manipulation of the remote ends of the rods. The rods are sufficiently long to extend outside the field of view such as to locations behind a curtain so that the operators are hidden (col. 2, line 25 to col. 4, line 65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the one action puppet character manipulated by puppeteers as taught by Bunin into Spector's system in order to produce continuous motion animated characterizations for direct viewing and for motion picture photography and television.

Claim 2 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 1.

Claims 3-5 are rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 1.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bunin (US Patent No. 3,899,848) discloses animated cartoon character and method.

Fischer et al. (US Patent No. 5,790,124) disclose system and method for allowing a performer to control and interact with an on-stage display device.

Mitsui et al. (US Patent No. 6,034,740) disclose keying system and composite image producing method.

Tzidon et al (US Patent No. 5,737,031) discloses system for producing a shadow of an object in a chroma key environment.

Lanier (US Patent No. 6,400,374 B2) discloses video superposition system and method.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Trang U. Tran** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-0090**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **John W. Miller**, can be reached at **(703) 305-4795**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:


(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Art Unit: 2614

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

TT TT
April 15, 2003


JOHN MILLER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600